



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

March 23, 2000

Duke Energy Corporation
ATTN: Mr. W. R. McCollum
Vice President
Oconee Site
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

SUBJECT: NRC OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS CASE NUMBER 2-99-029

Dear Mr. McCollum:


Enclosed for your information is the synopsis of the NRC Office of Investigations' (OI) investigation completed on January 14, 2000. The investigation was conducted following Duke Energy Corporation's receipt of an anonymous letter alleging that an operations superintendent at the Oconee Nuclear Station had suppressed concerns raised by another employee in a letter to Duke Energy management.

The OI investigation concluded that the superintendent did make negative statements about the employee writing the letter; however, no claim or evidence of discrimination was identified. In response to the anonymous letter, the NRC noted that Duke Energy initiated an investigation into the matter as well as issued a memorandum to the Oconee staff informing them of the pending Duke investigation and emphasizing employees' freedom to raise safety issues as well as the various avenues available for raising such concerns. Accordingly, no further action is warranted with regard to this matter at this time.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be made publically available.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at 404-562-4421.

Sincerely,



Anne T. Boland, Enforcement Officer
Enforcement and Investigations
Coordination Staff

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287
License Nos: DPR-33, DPR-52, and DRP-68

Enclosure: Synopsis to OI Case No. 2-99-029

Distribution w/encl:

~~C. Ogle, DRP~~

A. Boland, EICS

O. DeMiranda (RII-1999-A-0085)

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SYNOPSIS

On October 8, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Investigations, Region II, initiated an investigation following the receipt of an anonymous letter to Duke Energy Corporation management and the NRC. The letter alleged that a licensee Operations superintendent at the Oconee Nuclear Station had suppressed concerns raised in a letter to Duke Energy Corporation management by his staff.

The evidence developed during this investigation disclosed that the superintendent did make negative statements regarding an employee for writing a letter to Duke Energy Corporation management. However, the evidence did not substantiate the allegation of discrimination.

~~NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE WITHOUT APPROVAL OF
FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS, REGION II~~

Case No. 2-1999-029

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Enclosure

Approved for Release
March 3, 2000